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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BAGHDAD 002422

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, NEA/PPD, NEA/PPA, NEA/AGS, INR/IZ,
INR/P
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC KMDR KPAO IZ
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQ VIOLENCE CONSTITUTION;
BAGHDAD

¶1. SUMMARY: The major themes in the daily newspapers on June 7 were the developments of the political and security situations. END SUMMARY.

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES

¶A. "Shall we have an Iraqi conference to stop violence?"
(June 7)

Al-Ittihad (affiliated with PUK led by Jalal Talabani) published a third-page editorial by Abdul Hadi Mahdi about violence in Iraq:

"It seems that the Iraqi people are becoming more concerned about the security situation because of the number of people that the terrorists are killing. Iraqi blood is being shed daily and there seems to be no hope of this stopping in the near future. Every Iraqi killed is a loss to this country.

We do not want to discuss who is behind these operations. We just want to put an end to them and stop the bloodshed. All Iraqi political parties must discard their disagreements and solve this security issue. It paralyzes Iraqi society. Those who accuse each other of being responsible for the violence in Iraq must unite in order to stop the daily Iraqi bloodshed.

We notice that all the patriotic groups announce condemnations after each terrorist operation that targets Iraqi citizens. However, we don't need more condemnations; we need a surgery to heal the Iraqi wound. But who will perform this surgery? In fact, it is wrong to be waiting for a solution from abroad because only Iraqi people can heal these wounds.

Some neighboring countries announce that they will support Iraq. They don't want to stop the bloodshed in Iraq--they want the benefits. After the violence increased, we heard the neighboring countries and other countries announce that they will support the Iraqi government and help develop the Iraqi security forces. But we want tangible deeds and do not want statements and speeches. Therefore, Iraqi people must be responsible for healing their own wounds. The Iraqi citizens want to know whether or not the Ministries of Interior and Defense are able to end this violence. We hear many calls for holding conferences under different names. But we did not hear any call to gather Iraqi political groups to discuss how to end violence."

¶B. "Credibility of the constitutional process" (6/7)

As-Sabah (independent) published a second-page editorial by Abdul Halim Al-Ghunaimi about the constitution:

"Some groups try to cast doubt upon the constitutional process by saying that the constitution is already drafted. They also call for postponing the whole project. These groups allege that the final draft of the constitution was imported from abroad. They claim that the constitutional committee is only responsible for translating it from English to Arabic. On the other hand, the constitutional committee members confirm that they are studying how to expand the representation in the committee. This shows that the government, the National Assembly and the constitutional committee understand that drafting the constitution is an important process that must be accomplished by a unanimous national decision. At the present time, we must fully understand the concepts of law, democracy and faith so that we can be sure that the Iraqi

citizens are free from all restraints of dictatorship and political illiteracy."

SATTERFIELD